

## CHADRON STATE PARK

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### CHECK THE WEB!

Visit the Game and Parks Commission home page to discover Nebraska's other great state park lands, make your camping or cabin reservations, acquire your park entry permits and fishing & hunting licenses. Plan your getaway today at [www.OutdoorNebraska.org](http://www.OutdoorNebraska.org). Web reservations available 24/7 or call 402-471-1414.

### MORE ON NEBRASKA PARKLANDS

To learn more about Nebraska's many fine state park areas, call or write to the State Parks Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503, 402-471-0641.

To receive a 52-page, full-color Nebraska State Park booklet and any other information, please call toll-free 1-800-826-PARK (7275). Just leave a message with your name and complete address and request for information.

It's **EASY** to make **RESERVATIONS** for your favorite  
**NEBRASKA STATE PARKS**  
online at [www.outdoornebraska.org](http://www.outdoornebraska.org)  
or by calling:  
**402-471-1414**



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or want more information, contact the Affirmative Action Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-0641; the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-2024, TTY / TDD 402-471-4693. USFWS, Division of Bird Habitat and Conservation, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

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**Nebraska Game and Parks  
Commission**

[WWW.OutdoorNebraska.org](http://WWW.OutdoorNebraska.org)

Nebraska's oldest state park (1921), Chadron might well be the best kept secret of the state park system. With the majestic beauty of the Pine Ridge as its backdrop, Chadron covers 974 acres of natural beauty to awe any visitor. Located off U.S. 385 about nine miles south of the town of Chadron, the park is surrounded by the Pine Ridge Division of the Nebraska National Forest.

Chadron offers many of the amenities found at other state parks, but pains are taken to retain the pristine integrity of the area.

Dominating the scene are towering ponderosa pines that have adapted well to the Pine Ridge soils and generally dry climate. The altitude here approaches 5,000 feet in places, which means visitors "can keep their cool" even on warm summer days.

Miles of hiking/nature trails meander through the park, connecting with more miles of trails that lace Forest lands. There are short segments for a brief stroll or rugged distances and climbs for the dedicated wilderness buff. All offer a chance to absorb the splendor of the area. Park-goers can also walk or drive to the scenic observation point on Forest land by taking the spur off the main park road in the southwest corner of the park.

For those who truly want to escape the hectic pace of everyday life, Chadron State Park is the ideal locale. Here, one can literally retreat to the leisure of a bygone age.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

Chadron State Park has lodging accommodations to fit your needs, with 22 rustic housekeeping cabins nestled on the hillsides, blending into the natural landscape. Each cabin is furnished with bed linens, blankets and towels. Kitchenettes have stoves, refrigerators, silverware, cooking utensils and towels. Cribs or roll-away beds are available for a small additional fee, while extra linens are available for the asking.

Lodging and camping reservations are accepted up to one year in advance and are available on-line by telephone or in person during regular park office hours.

## CAMPING

Campers, too, will enjoy their stay at Chadron at the modern campground, complete with 30 amp electrical hookups, showers, laundry, picnic tables, grill, a playground for the kids and a dump station.

Primitive camping is also available for tent camping and all camping is primitive during the off-season. Rates vary depending on facilities. No camping is permitted in the cabin area, only in the designated campground. Chadron participates in the Campground Host program and welcomes “hosts.”

## RESERVATIONS

Cabin reservations are accepted for two or more nights up to a year in advance of arrival date, and can be made on-line, by phone or in person during regular park office hours. A two-night minimum stay is required during peak season; unless it is a one night stay positioned between two prior reservations or a walk in registration for that day’s business.

Half of the modern campsites at Chadron State park can be reserved prior to arrival; the remainder are available on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations may be made up to a year in advance of arrival date, and can be made on-online, by phone or in person.

To make reservation online, go to [www.OutdoorNebraska.org](http://www.OutdoorNebraska.org). Phone reservations can be made through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission call center at (402)471-1414. The Reservation Call Center is open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 6 pm Central Time.

There is a nonrefundable reservation fee for each site or cabin reserved by phone or in person. The reservation fee applies to each site or unit reserved, regardless of the length of time of the reservations.

## FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

Activities are diverse, too, ranging from swimming in the regulation-size pool to pedaling around the park lagoon in a paddleboat. The lagoon and Chadron Creek offer excellent trout fishing. Horseback trail rides provide more spectacular views of the area. Various crafts are on tap at the Chartran Trading Post, along with snacks and souvenirs. Visitors can savor the history of the region with demonstrations of old-time fur trader activities and black powder presentations. You can even try your hand at archery. Groups of 20 or more can make arrangements for a buffalo stew cookout. Most activities are available from Memorial weekend through Labor Day.

## PICNIC SHELTERS

Five shelters are scattered throughout the park for a picnic lunch, family gathering, or rest stop. All offer scenic views and are equipped with tables, grills and trash barrels. Any of them may be reserved for group activities.

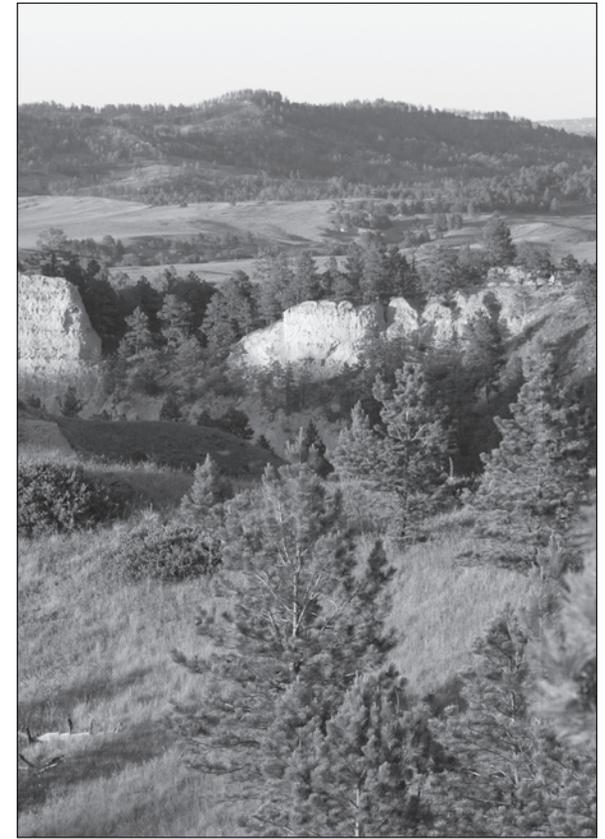
## ABOUT THE FUR TRADE

Exploring the vast, wild lands west of the Missouri River in the 19th Century, fur traders pushed into uncharted areas, building remote trading posts to swap the Indian’s goods for furs. It took a fair and courageous trader to be successful in these isolated outposts. Such was Louis B. Chartran. His good relationship with the Brule Sioux in the upper White River valley earned him great respect. The town, park and creek bear his name, which changed over time to Chadron.

Somewhere under the waters of the city reservoir, just north of the park, is the site of Chartran’s trading post, built in the winter of 1841-42. Owned by the Sibille and Adams Fur Trading Company, it was operated by Chartran until 1845, when the company sold out. This outpost was very similar to the nearby Bordeaux Trading Post, a replica of which can be seen at the Museum of the Fur Trade, east of town.

## THE PINE RIDGE

An arch-shaped escarpment some 100 miles long and up to 20 miles wide, the Pine Ridge consists of intermingled stands of ponderosa pine and prairie. It is rugged country with broken ridges, buttes and small streams. The northern edge of the High Plains in



Nebraska, it was formed during the Cenozoic Era, 65 million years ago. At the beginning of this period the Rocky Mountain and Black Hills uplifts began. As they rose, erosion took place and the sediment eventually formed a tableland, the High Plains of which the Ridge is a part. During the last million years, wind and water eroded the High Plains, carving the present topography of the Ridge.

Located on several overlapping geographical ranges of bird and plant life, the Ridge boasts a great diversity of both flora and fauna. Over 80 species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses occur here, along with some 50 species of song, shore and game birds.

## PERMIT & LICENSES

A valid Nebraska park entry permit is required for all vehicles entering the park. Annual and daily permits are available at the park office, as are hunting and fishing permits and stamps. Some big game and wild turkey permits may be available, depending on regulations.



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